

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Fig. 1 of the present application, for example. Claims 2-12 have been amended to correct matters of form. New claims 13-24 have been added hereby to recite the subject matter that has been deleted from claims 2, 4, 6 and 8-12.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 3-4 and 10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form in compliance with §112, second paragraph. For the reasons explained below, however, original independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the applied prior art.

1. The objection to the specification is noted, but deemed moot in view of the amendments filed herewith.
2. The rejections of claims 1-12 under §112 second paragraph are noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above.
3. The objection to claim 9 is noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above.
4. Claims 1-2, 5-9 and 11-12 were rejected under §103(a) over DeBorde. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in claim 1, the presently claimed board includes a forward contact line, which is defined as being a forward limit of the contact zone of the bottom surface of the board on a horizontal planar surface, the board being placed on the horizontal planar surface. The board also includes a shovel, defined as being a forward part of the board that is curved upward in order to overcome obstacles, the

shovel having a width of the shoulder of the ski line, defined as being a line on the bottom surface of the shovel at the location where a width of the shoulder of the ski is at a maximum. The width of the shoulder of the ski line is distinct from and located forward of the forward contact line toward the shovel. Additionally, the width of the shoulder of the ski line, measured between the bottom surface and the horizontal planar surface is substantially between 5mm and 15 mm.

Fig. 1 of DeBorde shows a board having a forward contact line (L_{CAV}) located forward of the width of the shoulder ski line (L_S) toward the shovel. Column 5, lines 41-44 in DeBorde defines the forward contact line (L_{CAV}) in the standardized manner, which defines the forward contact line as being a forward limit of the contact zone of the bottom surface of the board on a horizontal planar surface, the board being placed on the horizontal planar surface. Column 5, lines 1-8 of DeBorde state that point (5) is located at the maximum width of the shovel. Therefore, DeBorde fails to show a board having a distinct width of the shoulder of the ski line located forward of the forward contact line toward the shovel. Furthermore, because the width of the shoulder ski line is located in the central part of the board disclosed in DeBorde, which is not turned up similar to the shovel in the present invention, it is unlikely that the height of the width of the shoulder of the ski line could be within the 5 mm to 15 mm as recited in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the arguments submitted above distinguish claim 1 from DeBorde. Since claims 2-12 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 2-12 are also believed to be allowable over the applied prior art.

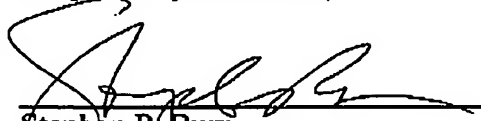
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

April 21, 2005

Date

Respectfully submitted,


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